

July 2019

## FEDERAL GOVT APPROVES \$200 MILLION FOR EVERGLADES

A federal bill was approved that earmarks \$200 million for Everglades restoration projects.

The funds will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to pay the federal share of the proposed projects including repairs to the EAA reservoir to cut harmful discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers.

The America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 authorizes more than \$6 billion in spending over 10 years for projects nationwide, including the \$1.3 billion Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir.

\$60 million will be provided to the National Park Service for elevating a 6.5-mile section of the roadway that runs west from Miami.

With the \$40 million Gov. Ron DeSantis requested from the Florida Legislature, the project is now fully funded.

**“Elevating the Tamiami Trail will allow for an additional 75 to 80 billion gallons of water a day to flow south into the Everglades and Florida Bay.”**

Gov. DeSantis

Naples Area Board of REALTORS®

# Water Quality Advisory



As the voice of REALTORS® in the Naples area, NABOR® has and will always advocate for action to reduce or eliminate any manmade or environmental threats to homeownership, property values and the living standards in Florida.

## CITY OF NAPLES ACTIVE WATER PROJECTS

Homeowners in six sections of the City of Naples are getting some much-needed utility infrastructure improvements including a massive septic conversion project that aims to improve drainage, overall water quality and reduce pollution.

REALTORS® working with sellers and buyers in the six sections need to be aware of the project and its conversion liability costs. Over 900 homes will be converted to sewer with an estimated out-of-pocket expense to each homeowner of \$13,300. Homeowners can either pay the assessment in full or elect to defer the cost on their tax bill for 20 years, at a rate of about \$980 per year.

The problems the City aims to reduce stem from leaking septic tanks and inadequate stormwater drainage that has plagued neighborhoods located between US 41 and Goodlette road for decades. It is reported that pollution from these faulty tanks contribute to blue-green algae outbreaks.

The \$14 million project will not only convert homes from septic to sewer, but also improve serious street drainage issues and potable water lines. The project began earlier this year and has created some inconveniences for homeowners. Temporary mailboxes were installed in certain areas, but the loud machinery and ground shaking are unavoidable. Even though active construction zones are limited to 400 feet of street length, access to those homes during the process has required some homeowners park their cars elsewhere and walk up to two blocks home.

REALTORS® should be aware of construction zones and work with homeowners to find alternate parking and showing or appraisal dates.



This map shows the six sections within the City of Naples that are receiving septic tank conversions. Photo Courtesy of the City of Naples.

The project was greenlit after Governor Ron DeSantis included septic tank cleanup as a priority in an executive order that sought \$2.5 billion in the next four years to combat red tide and blue-green algae blooms and to restore the Everglades.

A \$1.6 million grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District will be used to help divert costs for two of the conversion areas. However, the city was denied additional grant monies from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which resulted in the need to share the cost with homeowners.

The entire master plan is scheduled to be complete by August 2020.

## MOVIE DOCUMENTING SWFL WATER WOES TO PREMIER AUG 5

Calusa Waterkeeper will premier its short film "Troubled Waters" on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater in Ft. Myers, Florida.

The film will feature expert scientists and doctors as they explore the human health impacts of cyanotoxins and BMAA in South Florida. The event includes dinner, the movie, a panel discussion, and question and answer segment.

The panel of experts at the event will be Dr. William Bradley, Dr. Larry Brand, Dr. Davis Davis, Dr. James Metcalf, Dr. Malcolm McFarland, Adam Schaefer, John Cassani, Dr. Arthur Diskin, Dr. Robert Zarranz, RN Holly Rauen and many more.

Tickets are \$18 for Calusa Waterkeeper members; \$20 each for the public and can be purchased at [www.calusawaterkeeper.org](http://www.calusawaterkeeper.org).

## LEADERSHIP CLASS TO BUILD RINK2REEFS

The 2019 NABOR® Leadership class will build oyster reefs using discarded hockey sticks in an effort to improve water quality in area bays and inland channels.

The project is overseen by Florida Gulf Coast University's Vester Marine and Environmental Science Research Field Station and the National Hockey League/Green Initiative.

The program uses otherwise useless broken hockey sticks to create habitat for oysters, sponges and other filter-feeding aquatic organisms that remove pollutants and excessive nutrients from local waterways.

The Leadership class will begin assembling the reefs in September.

MORE on this in the next issue!

## RESOURCES

[Collier County Watershed Management Plan](#)

[Florida DEP](#)

[Calusa WaterKeeper](#)

[Captains for Clean Water](#)

[Daily Red Tide Reports](#)